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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,127	07/14/2003	Jaap W. van Hal	STC-01-0007	6893

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02/09/2005

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EXAMINER

SHIPPEN, MICHAEL L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1621

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,127

Applicant(s)

VAN HAL ET AL

Examiner

MICHAEL L. SHIPPEN

Art Unit

1621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 9, 12-19, 22, 23, 25 and 28-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/17/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103¹***

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12-18, 19, 22, 23, 25 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 56-73035. The reference teaches a process of reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst that contains Ti or Zr which process the instant claims read upon. As to the claims that recite specific reaction conditions, it is well within the skill of the artisan to operate within the parameters suggested by the disclosure of the reference and carry out the prior art process with the expectation that one will obtain the results taught in the reference. The optimization of reaction conditions for a particular reaction system to optimize a result (such as to maximize the yield of a desired product) is well within the skill of the artisan through routine experimentation, *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12-18, 19, 22, 23, 25 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 4,543,430. The reference teaches a process of reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst that contains Zr which process the instant claims read upon. As to the claims that recite specific reaction conditions, it is well within the skill of the artisan to operate within the

¹ The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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parameters suggested by the disclosure of the reference and carry out the prior art process with the expectation that one will obtain the results taught in the reference. The optimization of reaction conditions for a particular reaction system to optimize a result (such as to maximize the yield of a desired product) is well within the skill of the artisan through routine experimentation, *In re Aller, supra*.

Allowable Subject Matter

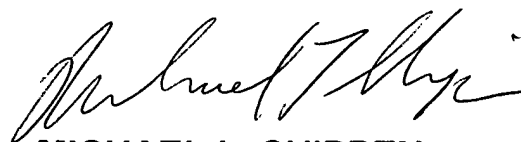
Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The remaining references are cited as of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael L. Shippen** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-0647**. The Examiner's normal tour of duty is 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1600**. The official group FAX machine number is **571-273-8300**.

MShippen
February 7, 2005



**MICHAEL L. SHIPPEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1621**